

UCF Graduate Council

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GRADUATE POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of March 17, 2010 meeting

Members Present

Patricia Bishop, Deborah Breiter, John C. Bricout, Jacquie Byers, Christopher Geiger, Wendi Kane, Jim Moharam, Saleh Naser, Eladio Scharron, Michael Stern

Recorder

Rhonda Nelson

Dr. Moharam called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. A quorum was established. The minutes from the March 3 meeting were approved by voice vote. Dr. Bishop asked the committee if a draft copy of the minutes could be shared with graduate faculty and staff prior to waiting for the approval of the committee at the following meeting. The committee agreed to do this.

Master's along the way. A draft copy showing the changes that were approved at the last meeting was shared. Dr. Moharam reminded everyone that this draft was approved at the last meeting and no additional votes were needed.

Part-time research hours and continuous enrollment. Dr. Stern then shared a report that Tracy Jones had prepared on: (1) the number of students enrolled in part-time research hours in Fall 2009; and (2) the number of thesis and dissertation students who were not continuously enrolled over the last three years. The report showed the following:

- 164 students were enrolled in less than 3 hours of thesis or dissertation.
- 53 students graduated in the last 3 years that had passed candidacy and did not have enrollment in each term until graduation.
- 161 students graduated in the last 3 years that enrolled in thesis hours and did not have enrollment in each term until graduation.

Discussion was held on the report. The following suggestions and points were raised:

- A suggestion was made that if students were done with everything and waiting to defend, that it would be acceptable to let them sign up for 1 hour for 1 time only.
- A question was raised concerning whether more and more students were not continuously enrolled and what were the consequences if a student was not enrolled.
- Another issue raised was what about the student that sign up for 1 hour only for 1 time only to finish and then do not finish.
- What about the ones that are being enrolled when their adviser was gone.
- Another suggestion was that if a student was part-time and finished with everything and the dissertation was completed but not defended, they can do 1 hour for 1 semester if they fill out the intent to graduate form.
- Another question raised was how much faculty time is being used while a student is working on their thesis or dissertation.
- Another suggestion was that we need to either enforce or get rid of continuous enrollment policy.

The consensus of the committee was that a student should be able to sign up for 1 hour (1 time only) if everything was finished. Dr. Moharam asked that Dr. Bishop put together language on this for the catalog copy and bring back to the next meeting.

Substitution of research hours. Some discussion was held on this. A question was raised if students in a thesis program want to go back to a non-thesis option, can they use thesis hours as directed research. Dr. Bishop shared that a lot of universities do not allow this. Discussion was held on what hours could be substituted:

- Thesis hours used as directed research hours (9)
- Doctoral research hours be substituted for dissertation hours
- Dissertations hours for directed research hours.
- Can thesis hours be changed to all of the above

Some felt a student should be able to use some dissertation hours for thesis hours. A question was raised on whether a policy was needed on this or just clarification language to be available for the auditors. Dr. Moharam suggested that something should be drafted to review at the next meeting.

Continuous enrollment policy. The consensus of the committee was to leave this as is for now.

Review of graduate certificates. Discussion was held on the guidelines for the sunseting of graduate certificates. Dr. Bishop indicated that it may be good to review these guidelines as they have not been changed since they were set up. The committee will consider adding this item to the fall agenda. The committee then reviewed the graduate certificates of the programs that were up for review. These were the certificates that were established in the years of 2000, 2003, and 2006. The certificates suggested for sunseting were:

Global and Comparative Education Certificate

Child Language Disorders

4000/5000 Split level classes. Some discussion was held on this. Dr. Stern pointed out that we have no policy on the number of split classes that a program can have. A question was raised as to whether a policy was needed or just add clarifying language for this. Dr. Stern will write up something for the curriculum committee. There was a question raised as to whether a split class could be electives or core courses. Discussion was held on the ratio of the number of splits and what the limit should be. This agenda item will be moved to the fall agenda

Breach of academic integrity. This agenda item will be moved to the fall agenda.

Adjournment: Dr. Stern indicated that he would not be available for the next meeting on March 24 and asked if the committee would like to go ahead with the meeting. The committee agreed not to meet on March 24. The last meeting of this committee for this year will be April 14. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.